

A NEW CALIFORNIA RECORD FOR *FILAGO VULGARIS*.—On May 28 and on July 3, 1971, Elizabeth Lennon collected *Filago vulgaris* Lamarck in Marin County, California, where it grew on open slopes above Kirby Cove just west of the Golden Gate Bridge. This is the third record of this Old World plant to be reported from the Pacific States, the other two being from Douglas County, Oregon (Leaf. W. Bot. 2:192. 1939), and from Mendocino County, California (Leaf. W. Bot. 3:168. 1942). In those two notes, I reported the plant as *Gifola germanica* (L.) Dumort., but here I am following Wagenitz (Willdenowia 4:51. 1965), who has shown that Lamarck's name is the one to be used.

This distinctive cudweed is all but omitted from our western floras: the Mendocino County occurrence has now been noted by Munz (Supplement to a California flora, 1968, p. 164), but it was omitted in both editions of Peck's *Manual of the higher plants of Oregon* (1941; 1961), and in both printings of Munz' *A California flora* (1959; 1963). Since the plant has now a known linear distribution of nearly 500 miles in California and Oregon, one wonders whether it is truly a rare weed or whether it is more common and has been overlooked by collectors because of its superficial resemblance to some of our more ubiquitous cudweeds.—JOHN THOMAS HOWELL, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco 94118.

NOTES ON WESTERN MYXOMYCETES.—

1. The demise of *Didymium aurantipes* Brooks & Kowalski.—In the summer of 1971, while studying the myxomycete collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, I examined a specimen labeled *Didymium laxifila* G. Lister & Ross (Essex Nat. 27:263–264. 1945) collected by Ross from the type locality (*Ross 3501*, on dead leaves, Loughton, Epping Forest, Sussex, England, Jan. 19, 1944). Presumably, this represents the type collection. Comparing this specimen with the type and numerous other collections of *Didymium aurantipes* Brooks & Kowalski (Mycologia 58:169–173. 1966) that I have made in California indicates that the two species are identical in all particulars. Thus, *D. aurantipes* is a synonym of *D. laxifila*.

2. Concerning *Physarum albescens* Ellis ex Macbr. and *Physarum rubronodum* Martin.—*Physarum albescens* is a very common snowline myxomycete found abundantly throughout the alpine areas of the western states. While I have collected *P. albescens* on numerous occasions, I never found material that seemed to fit *Physarum rubronodum*. I was especially curious why this was so, since *P. rubronodum* was described from the slopes of Mt. Shasta (Jour. Wash. Acad. 38:238–240. 1948) and I have spent many hours collecting in that area. Recently I obtained the type collection of *P. rubronodum* (IA) and the reason for my not collecting it became clear. It is the same as *P. albescens*.

Physarum albescens is a remarkably variable taxon and in my opinion the descriptions given it in the numerous monographs of myxomycetes do not indicate its extreme variability. Thus, a detailed description follows:

PHYSARUM ALBESCENS Ellis ex Macbr., N. Am. Slime-Moulds ed. 2. 86. 1922.

Leocarpus fulvus Macbr., N. Am. Slime-Moulds 82. 1899.

Physarum fulvum (Macbr.) G. Lister, Mycet. ed. 2. 60. 1911. Not *P. fulvum* Fries, 1829.

Physarum rubronodum Martin, Jour. Wash. Acad. 38:238. 1948.

Sporangia loosely to densely gregarious, rarely scattered, subglobose to shortly plasmodiocarpous or, more commonly, obovoid, sessile, or, more commonly, borne on strand-like extensions of the hypothallus, 0.7–1.5 mm in diameter, up to 2.0 mm in height, white, pale to brilliant yellow, light to dark orange or, when lime is lacking, dark blue, dehiscing above in small flakes, tending to be persistent below; peridium basically single, when the limy crust is especially thick, appearing double as the lime flakes off, membranous and iridescent when lime is lacking, thick and crustose when charged with lime; stipe, when present, simply an extension of the hypothallus, up to 2.0 mm in length; hypothallus massive, venulose, composed of